

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~In a~~ A method of enhancing product homogeneity in the administration of ~~administering~~ a gas-containing contrast agent to a subject by continuous infusion ~~over an infusion period of 5-60 minutes~~, the improvement comprising controllably delivering said gas-containing contrast agent over an infusion period of 5-60 minutes from an upper extremity of an essentially vertically positioned syringe and ~~thereafter~~ admixing with a flushing medium prior to administration to the subject ~~to enhance product homogeneity~~.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein delivery of said gas-containing contrast agent from said syringe is controlled by a syringe driver.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said gas comprises sulphur hexafluoride or a perfluorinated low molecular weight hydrocarbon.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said perfluorinated hydrocarbon is perfluoropropane or perfluorobutane.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said gas is present as albumin-stabilised microbubbles.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said gas is present as phospholipid-stabilised microbubbles.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said phospholipid predominantly comprises phosphatidylserine.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said flushing medium is normal saline.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the admixed gas-containing contrast agent and flushing medium are administered by injection.

13. (withdrawn) An apparatus for use in administration of a gravity segregating dispersion by continuous infusion, said apparatus comprising:

(i) a delivery device adapted to receive a dispersion-containing delivery vessel in an essentially vertical position and controllably to expel dispersion from an upper or lower extremity of said vessel;

(ii) mixing means adapted to effect admixture of said expelled dispersion with a flushing medium; and

(iii) conduit means adapted to conduct said admixed dispersion and flushing medium to an administration device.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said delivery device is a syringe driver adapted to receive an essentially vertically positioned syringe.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said mixing means comprise a three way connector or tap adapted to connect said delivery vessel and a source of flushing medium to said conduit means.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 which further comprises flow rate controlling means for controlling the rate of flow of said flushing medium.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 which further comprises means for inverting the position of said delivery vessel.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the flushing medium is administered at a flow rate of 0.5-5 ml/minute.